

From: Colin Cannell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:55am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I'd just like to add my comments to the proposed settlement. As a longtime Macintosh system administrator, I have firsthand experience with the frustration of trying to get my systems to interlock with Microsoft software. Through the use of proprietary formats and secret APIs, Microsoft has successfully prevented Macintosh users from reading its audio and video formats, opening and editing its document formats, accessing Windows-based network storage, and generally getting anything done _without_ the use of software expensively supplied and infrequently updated by Microsoft itself.

Based on my work in the field, I concur wholeheartedly with those who argue that the proposed settlement contains artificial restrictions that will effectively castrate it. I would urge you to at the very least reconsider your definitions of "Windows" and "API" to make them useful and to require Microsoft to publish the format of its MS Office products for all current _and future_ versions of the program.

Regards,
Colin Cannell